



Press Release

Press Release Announcement - June 24, 2002 - For Immediate Use

Pennsylvania Red Meat Production Up 3.7 Percent in May

HARRISBURG --- Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in Pennsylvania during May 2002 totaled 105.2 million pounds, up 3.7 percent from May 2001, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS).

Beef production, at 114.5 million pounds live weight, was up 7.4 percent from May 2001. Total head slaughtered was 89,600, up 5.5 percent; and live weight averaged 1,278 pounds, an increase of 22 pounds compared to one year ago.

Veal production was 5.26 million pounds live weight, down 2 percent. Calf slaughter of 13,800 head was unchanged from May 2001, and average live weight decreased 6 pounds to 382 pounds.

Pork production was 52.3 million pounds live weight, up less than 1 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 217,100 up 5 percent. Average live weight was 241 pounds, down 10 pounds compared to May 2001.

Lamb and mutton production was 596,000 pounds live weight, up 5.5 percent. The number slaughtered was 6,100, up 17 percent. Average live weight was 98 pounds, down 12 pounds from last year.

Nationally, commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in May 2002 totaled 4.02 billion pounds. Beef production, dressed weight basis, at 2.34 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous year and a new record high for May. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.15 million head, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Veal production, at 15.4 million pounds, was 3 percent below May a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 77,800 head, down 1 percent from May 2001.

Pork production totaled 1.65 billion pounds, up 6 percent from the previous year and a new record high for May. Hog kill totaled 8.33 million head, 5 percent above May 2001.

Lamb and mutton production, at 19.5 million pounds, was up 16 percent from May 2001. Sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 284,100 head, up 19 percent from a year earlier.

January-May red meat production was 19.2 billion pounds, 4 percent above the previous year. Accumulated beef production was up 5 percent from last year, veal production was down 4 percent, pork production was up 3 percent, and lamb and mutton production was down 1 percent.